

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT NO. 25X1

TOPIC Brand Airfield 25X1

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 23 September 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

1. Between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on 8 August 1953, MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s practiced firing at towed air sleeves over the Luebbenau area. The aircraft approached the sleeve target from the right and, after firing, flew away in the opposite direction, making flat curves and assembling in formations. Similar firing practices were made in the same area on 10 and 11 August 1953. After 8 August, the beacon light at Brand airfield was again in operation.
2. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Brand airfield between 8 August and 6 September 1953:

8 August. Between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., there was intensive air activity by swept-back jet fighters without auxiliary fuel tanks. The aircraft flew individually for 20 minutes.

9 August. There was no air activity. The weather was clear with a 4/10 overcast. Swept-back jet fighters observed at the field included 5 near the east end of the runway and 32 on the southern taxiway.

10 August. There was no air activity although the weather was fair.

11 August. During the morning, individual flights were made by aircraft which were fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks.

12 August. Night flights were made after 8 p.m. There was a 3/10 overcast. The aircraft had set position lights which were green at the starboard, red at the port side and yellow at the nose and tail.

SECRET

- 2 -

25X1

12 August. Between 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., there was intensive air activity by aircraft without auxiliary fuel tanks which flew in formations of two and four planes. Individual aircraft which were fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks towed sleeve targets which were not fired at. There was a 1/10 overcast and good visibility.

14 August. After 8 p.m., there was night flying by aircraft with propellers.

15 August. No air activity was observed. There was a 3/10 overcast and good visibility.

18 August. Between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., a total of about 140 aircraft successively were observed aloft making individual flights of 15 minutes duration. The weather was clear.

20 August. Between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., there was intensive air activity by aircraft with auxiliary fuel tanks [redacted]. There was a 8/10 overcast at an altitude of 200 meters.

25X1

21 August. Between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., about 80 flights were made by swept-back jet fighters which flew individually and in groups of two. Aerobatics were also observed. The sky was 9/10 overcast. An U-MIG-15 [redacted] towed a sleeve target.

25X1

22 to 24 August. No air activity was observed while the weather usually was dull.

25 August. Between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m., night flights were made by individual swept-back jet fighters, while the runway was lighted during the landings and take-offs.

26 and 27 August. No air activity was observed. There was a 7/10 to 8/10 overcast at an altitude of about 300 meters.

28 August. There was intensive air activity throughout the day. Source repeatedly observed that aircraft towed sleeve targets which, however, were not fired at in the area of the field.

29 to 31 August. There was no air activity.

1 September. Between 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m., individual flights were made by aircraft both with and without auxiliary fuel tanks.

6 September. At about 11:30 a.m., 12 Il-28s approached from the east in two wedge formations of 6 planes each, circled once over the field, and then landed at intervals of about 1,000 meters. The 12 jet bombers were parked at irregular intervals in the newly erected shrapnel-proof aircraft revetments in the northwestern corner of the field. [redacted]

25X1
25X1

[redacted] the aircraft were not used for air activity. [redacted]
[redacted] Il-2s landed at the field and were parked in the northwestern corner. A total of 23 MiG-15 and U-MIG-15s, 12 Il-28s, and

25X1
25X1

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

- 3 -

5 Il-2s were counted at the field. The arrival of additional personnel was not observed. ²

3. In the second half of August, two radio installations each were observed in the extensions of the runway. Five searchlights, 200 meters apart, were erected in the eastern extension of the runway.

4. At about 10 a.m. on 11 August, a train of 12 boxcars with air force soldiers and 20 flatcars loaded with crates, boards, fuel containers and 2 trucks arrived at Brand railroad station. ¹

25X1
25X1
5.

6. At 4 p.m. on 10 August, five soldiers with black-bordered blue epaulets, under the supervision of an officer, unloaded billeting equipment from several trucks on to the loading ramp at Brand railroad station. No railroad cars were observed at the ramp.

7. On 25 and 26 August, jet fighters fired at sleeve targets towed by swept-back jet fighters over the Brand - Luebben - Finsterwalde area. After 9 p.m. on 25 August, swept-back jet fighters made practice flights, sometimes as far as the Cottbus area. ¹

25X1
1. Comment. Since 4 August 1953, Brand airfield has been occupied by a fighter regiment with about 33 MiG-15s from Alt Loennewitz airfield.

25X1

25X1
2. Comment. The presence of Il-28s at Brand airfield is reported for the first time since the departure of the bomber units from East Germany in early July 1953. It cannot be stated whether the landing of these aircraft is the initial stage of a retransfer of bomber units or whether the planes were temporarily stationed there for practice purposes. The were previously observed in Werneuchen and Welzow.

SECRET